

CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 2012

HOPE HIGHLANDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

300 HOPE ROAD, CRANSTON, RI 02921

EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:00 P.M.

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY PUBLIC SESSION

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Cranston School Committee was held on the evening of the above date at Hope Highlands Elementary School with the following members present:

Chairperson Iannazzi, Mrs. Ruggieri, Mr. Lombardi, Mrs. Culhane and Mr. Bloom. Mr. Traficante and Mrs. McFarland were both absent with cause.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. It was moved by Mr. Lombardi and seconded by Mrs. Ruggieri and unanimously carried to convene to Executive Session pursuant to RI State Laws PL 42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel (Discussion of Superintendent's Contract), (Discussion of Certified Administrator A's Settlement Agreement), (Discussion of Administrator "B") (Bus Driver Benefits); PL 42-46-5(a)(2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation (Cranston Area Career & Technical Center Supreme Court Case), (Contract Negotiations' Update – Secretaries), (Maintenance of Effort), (Volunteer Policy), (Consideration of legal options regarding status of

aid to education appropriation and legal advice relating to same).

Call to Order – Public Session was called to order at 7:40 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted and the roll was called. A quorum was present. It was reported out that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

Chairperson Iannazzi announced that Mr. Traficante is excused. He recently had surgery and Mrs. McFarland is traveling for work.

Executive Session Minutes Sealed – August 20, 2012

A motion to seal Executive Session minutes was made by Mr. Lombardi and seconded by Mrs. Ruggieri. The roll was called; all were in favor.

Minutes of Previous Meetings Approved – July 23, July 26, and July 30, 2012

A motion to approve minutes of previous meetings was moved by Mr. Lombardi and seconded by Mrs. Ruggieri. The roll was called; all were in favor.

Public Acknowledgements / Communications

Ms. Iannazzi recognized City Council President, Anthony Lupino, is present tonight.

Chairperson's Communications – There are none

Superintendent's Communications - There are none

School Committee Member Communications – There were none

Public Hearing

Students (Agenda/Non-Agenda Matters) – There are none

Members of the Public (Agenda Matters Only)

Joanne Maslen – Pleading once again for Joanne Valk to stay at Waterman School. (Speech on file with minutes in Superintendent's Office)

Ms. Iannazzi asked Mrs. Maslen to submit her speech/comments to the secretary of the School Committee so that Dr. Lundsten has a copy.

Lizbeth Larkin – CTA President

I would just like it to go on record that the person that was discussed was Joanne Valk and not one of our members and that GD name should not have been mentioned and should not be in the minutes. The natural fact is that she is not here to defend herself and she should have not had that kind of attack on her. As we know, to respect the Cranston Public Schools Executive Team and the CPS School Committee that obviously there's a lot of things that go on

that other people do not know about. Thank you.

Consent Calendar / Consent Agenda

The Proposed Consent Agenda this evening is as follows:

Resolutions: 12-8-03, 12-8-04, 12-8-06, 12-8-07 with addendum and correction, 12-8-08, 12-8-09, 12-8-10, 12-8-11, 12-8-12, 12-8-13, 12-8-14, 12-8-15 as corrected, 12-8-16 with addendum, 12-8-17, 12-8-18 with addendum, 12-8-19, and 12-8-21. Moved by Mr. Lombardi and seconded by Mrs. Ruggieri. The roll was called. All were in favor.

Superintendent Lundsten

On appointments: I would like to welcome to Cranston Public Schools, the following employees. Would Susan Buonnano please stand so that we can recognize her? Susan is the new principal at Gladstone. Welcome.

The new Assistant Principal/Director at Cranston Area Career & Technical Center is Gerald Auth.

The new Administrator for the Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics is Vincent Varrechione.

I would also like all the new teachers who are in the audience to please stand.

Would the new coaches please stand. I would like to point out that we had two retirements of folks who have worked for us for a long period of time. We have John Carvalho, who was a custodian for us and worked for us for 25 years.

Also, we have an outreach worker, Carol Esposito, who is at the Early Childhood Center. She also worked for us for 25 years.

They are to be congratulated and I wish them the best on their retirements.

Consent Resolutions as follows:

NO. 12-8-03 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, said certified administrator be appointed as follows:

Susan Buonanno, Principal

Gladstone St. Elementary School

Contract Effective Date...August 20, 2012

See Attached Financial Impact Analysis

NO. 12-8-04 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, said certified administrator be appointed as follows:

Gerald Auth, Assistant Principal/Director

Cranston Area Career & Technical Center

Contract Effective Date...August 20, 2012

See Attached Financial Impact Analysis

NO. 12-8-06 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, said certified administrator be appointed as follows:

Vincent Varrechione

Director of Health/Physical Education/Athletics

Contract Effective Date...August 27, 2012

See Attached Financial Impact Analysis

NO. 12-8-07 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following certified personnel be appointed for the 2012-2013 school year:

Rosaura Vasquez, Step 1

Education...RIC, BA

Experience...Cranston Substitute

Certification...Middle School Math

Assignment...Western Hills Middle School .4 FTE

Effective Date...August 27, 2012

Authorization...Replacement

Fiscal Note...12911810 51110

Brian Hart, Step 4

Education...University of Richmond, BA

Experience...Coventry School Department

Certification...Secondary Math

Assignment...Cranston High School West .6 FTE

Effective Date...August 27, 2012

Authorization...Replacement

Fiscal Note...12611810 51110

Charlotte Wilson, Step 2

Education...RIC, BS

Experience...Cranston Substitute

Certification...Elementary\Middle Special Education

Assignment...Gladstone 1.0 FTE

Effective Date...August 27, 2012

Authorization...Replacement

Fiscal Note...11913260 51110

Nicole Pelland, Step 1

Education...URI, BS

Experience...Cranston Substitute

Certification...Early Childhood PK-2

Assignment...Rhodes .5 FTE

Effective Date...August 27, 2012

Authorization...Replacement

Fiscal Note...11712010 51110

Kathryn Ciresi, Step 2

Education...RIC, BS

Experience...Cranston Substitute

Certification...Elementary\Middle Special Education

Assignment... Rhodes 1.0 FTE

Effective Date...August 27, 2012

Authorization...Replacement

Fiscal Note...11713260 51110

Meredith Moore, Step 2 + Masters

Education...University of Delaware, BA, URI, MLS

Experience...North Smithfield School Department

Certification...Library & Media K-12

Assignment...Itinerant 1.0 FTE

Effective Date...August 27, 2012

Authorization...Replacement

Fiscal Note...12016030 51110

Marlo Zoglio, Step 3

Education...University of South Florida

Experience...Cranston Substitute

Certification...Elementary 1-6

Assignment...CSR .5 FTE

Effective Date...August 27, 2012

Authorization...Replacement

Fiscal Note...57124129 51110

Drew Hochman, Step 4

Education...RIC, BS

Experience...Cranston Substitute

Certification...Elementary\Middle Special Education

Assignment...Stadium 1.0 FTE

Effective Date...August 27, 2012

Authorization...Replacement

Fiscal Note...11013260 51110

Karen Kurzman, Step 12 + Doctorate

Education...Plymouth State College, MS,

University of Vermont, Ed.D

Experience...Block Island School Department

Certification...Secondary English\Principal K-12

Assignment...Program Supervisor for ELA

Effective Date...August 27, 2012

Authorization...New

Fiscal Note...19131013 51132

Mary Anne Dinnerman, Step 2 + MA

Education...RIC, BA, MA

Experience...Cranston Substitute

Certification...Early Childhood PK-2

Assignment...Waterman

Effective Date...August 27, 2012

Authorization...Replacement

Fiscal Note...11012010 51110

Christina Bello, Step 2 + MAT

Education...URI, BA, MAT

Experience...Cranston School Department

Certification...Elementary 1-6

Assignment...CSR .5 FTE

Effective Date...August 27, 2012

Authorization...Replacement

Fiscal Note...19131013 51132

NO. 12-8-08 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:

Andrea Aiello, Elementary

Karen Serpa, Secondary English

Stacy Bendell, Elementary

Jessica Alba, Elementary

NO. 12-8-09 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following certified staff member be granted a leave of absence without compensation as provided in Article XIX, Section B.3 of the Master Agreement between the Cranston School Committee and the Cranston Teachers' Alliance:

Jennifer Fusaro, Teacher

E.S. Rhodes School

Effective Date...September, 2012 to August, 2013

NO. 12-8-10 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation(s) of the following certified personnel

be accepted:

Kristin Munko, Teacher

Leave

Effective Date...July 26, 2012

Jennifer Cohen, Teacher

Itinerant

Effective Date...August 3, 2012

NO. 12-8-11 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following individual(s) be appointed as an athletic coach:

Joe Lennon, Head Coach Boys' Soccer

CHSW

Step – 3

Class – B

Playing Competition – Cranston West

Experience – Assistant Coach Boys' Soccer – North Smithfield

Certification – RI Coaches Certification; CPR\AED\First Aid

Kara Scanlon, Assistant Coach Girls' Soccer

CHSE

Step – 2

Class – D

Playing Competition – Bristol School Department

Experience – Assistant Girls' Lacrosse – Cranston West

Certification – RI Coaches Certification; CPR\AED\First Aid

April Oberhelman, Head Coach Girls' Volleyball

CHSE

Step – 6

Class – B

Playing Competition – Rhode Island College

Experience – Assistant Girls' Volleyball Coach – Cranston East

Certification – RI Coaches Certification; CPR\AED\First Aid

Sarah Knowlton, Head Coach Field Hockey

CHSE

Step – 5

Class – B

Playing Competition – Burriville High School

Experience – Assistant Coach Field Hockey – Burriville

Certification – RI Coaches Certification; CPR\AED\First Aid

Ariana Spaziano, Assistant Field Hockey Coach

CHSE

Step – 1

Class – D

Playing Competition – Cranston East

Experience – None

Certification – RI Coaches Certification; CPR\AED\First Aid

NO. 12-8-12 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following individual(s) be reappointed as an athletic coach:

Cranston High School East

Victor Raposa Head Coach Boys' Soccer

Josh Procaccianti Assistant Coach Boys' Soccer

David Capuano Faculty Manager

NO. 12-8-13 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following individuals be appointed as volunteer coaches:

Cranston High School West

Tom Paquette Girls' Volleyball

NO. 12-8-14 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation of the following coach (es) be accepted:

Joe Simas, Assistant Coach Boys' Soccer

CHSW

Effective Date...August 13, 2012

NO. 12-8-15 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified employee(s) be appointed:

Bernadetta Petrone, Part Time Elementary Secretary

Gladstone St. School

Effective Date...August 27, 2012

Authorization...Replacement

Fiscal Note...11943210 51110

Katherine DeCesaris, Part Time Elementary Secretary

Hope Highlands

Effective Date...August 27, 2012

Authorization...Replacement

Fiscal Note...13443210 51110

NO. 12-8-16 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:

Jenifer Silvestri, Secretary

Clemencia Molina, Teacher Assistant

Stephen Maine, Bus Driver

NO. 12-8-17 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the retirement(s) of the following non-certified personnel be accepted:

John Carvalho, Custodian

Peters

Effective Date...October 24, 2011

Roseann Antonetti, Custodian

Food Truck

Effective Date...January 27, 2011

NO. 12-8-18 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation(s) of the following non-certified personnel be accepted:

**Carol Esposito, Child Outreach Worker
ECC**

Effective Date...July 6, 2012

**Alysha Stimpson, Site Coordinator
Kidsventure**

Effective Date...August 10, 2012

**Amber Perry, Bus Monitor
Transportation**

Effective Date...August 28, 2012

**Bernadetta Petrone, Teacher Assistant
Stone Hill**

Effective Date...August 14, 2012

**NO. 12-8-19 - RESOLVED, that the following purchases be approved:
Photocopier Maintenance for the period from September 1, 2012 to
August 31, 2013 in the amount of \$54,838.65.**

Number of bids issued 6

Number of bids received 3

Intercom system for Western Hills in the amount of \$31,250.

Number of bids issued 5

Number of bids received 1

NO. 12-8-21 -RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2012-2013 Cranston School Committee Meetings & Work Session Schedule (as amended) be approved. (See Attached)

ADDENDUM TO THE AGENDA

CORRECTIONS TO RESOLUTION NO. 12-8-07

Name Misspelled Mary Anne Dinnerman

Correct Spelling Mary Anne Dinerman, M.Ed

Name Misspelled Christina Bello

Correct Spelling Cristina Bello

ADD TO RESOLUTION NO. 12-8-07 – Certified Appointments

AnnMary DiBiase Pezzullo, Step 3 + MAT

Education...Cornell University, BS, BU, MBA

Experience...Warren School Department

Certification...General Science

Assignment...Cranston East 1.0 FTE

Effective Date...August 27, 2012

Authorization...Replacement

Fiscal Note...11312330 51110

RESOLUTION NO. 12-8-15

Name Misspelled Katherine DeCesaris

Correct Spelling Katherine DeCesare

ADD TO RESOLUTION NO. 12-8-16

John Campbell, Custodian

ADD TO RESOLUTION NO. 12-8-18

Mary Huling, Teacher Assistant

Stone Hill - Effective Date...August 28, 2012

Moved by Mr. Lombardi, seconded by Mrs. Culhane, Resolution No. 12-8-01, for discussion:

Mr. Lombardi

I know that this is in line with the press release that just went out but again, I want to say kudos to not only our bargaining units out there that saw fit to work hard with us and not against us in realizing a substantial savings throughout the last couple of years. To quote our outgoing Superintendent, Peter Nero, he left the district in a better position than when he found it and this is great news; that there's

light at the end of the tunnel and now seeing the surplus; we have done our duty; we've made out pledge and I know the Council President is here. Members of the School Committee has made their pledge to make this savings to pay back this debt and hopefully by 2014 will be in a discussion about restoration of programs and that sort of thing. I want to applaud every single member of this school committee for the hard work and diligence that they did to make the cuts; the hard cuts and the tough decisions but now to put us in the black for this year. Congratulations to all of you.

Mr. Bloom

I have a number of comments I would like to make tonight. I will not be voting for this resolution. Before I express some of my comments, I'd like to restate some of the history that's lead us to this particular date. Eighteen months ago, in February of 2011, this School Committee was faced with a very difficult budget to put together. We were facing a deficit of almost \$5 million which included the \$1.6 million repayment to the City. In order to close that gap, we budgeted about \$3.4 million in concessions from our bargaining groups. Those bargaining groups stepped up to the table and committed and followed through on those concessions and this School Committee owes a lot to those and the district owes a lot to those bargaining groups for stepping up. When the budget went in front of the City Council and to the Administration, we had requested about \$3.9 million from the City. We were only funded about \$2.8 million. That was the budget that was passed by the City Council. In June of last

year, 14 months ago, this School Committee was faced with the daunting task of what do we do! How do we close the gap of now, \$1.1 million? If you took a look at the budget, we did not know how we were going to find the money and so we budgeted a line item for Debt Restructuring; not knowing whether or not the District would have the ability to repay the loan installment at this time today. A week ago we received an analysis which was unaudited at this time; which has presented where the District is today. Today, we have a surplus of \$131,000. The question is what happened? Twelve months ago we didn't know how we were going to repay the loan and today we are and to boot we have \$131,000 surplus. It's a good question because our revenues for the year were \$160,000 less than we forecasted; most of which was offset by some reclassifications. Our tuitions for the year were \$350,000 less than we anticipated. For this current year, we have forecasted lower tuition revenues because many of the districts that are feeding students to us are feeding less of them. On the expense side the previous Superintendent, Mr. Nero, did a very good job of managing the salaries and the difficult environment and we ended up with a small surplus in salaries across all categories when also including benefits of about \$14,000. Our Purchase Services, which is something that is very difficult to forecast, particularly if it's related to Special Education, was \$400,000 over budget for a deficit of about \$403,000. Our Supplies and Materials, Gasoline Expenses were \$100,000 over budget. Repairs and Maintenance on our aging fleet of buses were \$35,000; all told, we had expenses of \$500,000 - \$600,000 over budget; many of which

are difficult for the District to forecast. Fortuitously, and I use that word literally, we showed a surplus of \$2.8 million this year in our health, dental and pension accounts. That is something like the weather that it is not something that the District can count on year in and year out. Two years ago we were over budget and that's money that comes out. This year sometimes it's better to be lucky than smart; the District is in the position where we can pay the loan. I think it's very important for the public to realize that this School Committee made a lot of effort in making a lot of hard decisions but we're not repaying the loan because we were smart. We are repaying the loan because we were lucky this year and it's not something that we can count on next year. With that said, I question why we would want to repay this surplus. It's not going to change anything; we still owe \$3 million to the City; we're still operating under a court order; we're not paying any interest to the City and we're not going to be able to restore any programs until everything is repaid. Why would we want to pay money that we may need to offset some of these unlucky events; we had a mild winter this year so our heating costs were lower; the number of snow storms were fewer so we had fewer snow removal expenses. We don't know that this is not money that we are going to need next year. Rather than repaying this money back to the City, it would be my recommendation that this money be set aside and restricted in order for the School District to pay for these unanticipated expenses such as snow removal, heating costs, and perhaps even Special Education tuitions, health insurance benefits; these are all going to be expenses that the District is going

to do the best they can to forecast. We're going to rely on third parties as we do in health insurance in terms of setting our rates and expecting what things are going to be. These are not expenses that we can forecast with 100% so I think it more prudent for us to be setting this money aside within our own budget, restricting its use for general operating expenses so that in future years in the event that we have expenses like these that go over budget, there is a reserve to pay for them so we don't have to go back to the City Council and beg for money.

Mrs. Culhane

Mr. Bloom I don't want to accuse you of political grandstanding at a School Committee meeting; however, I would like to say that you were not involved in the conversations that led to us paying back this money. You were not on the School Committee at that point. You were not on the School Committee when we first sat with the Mayor and the Council and they wanted every dime that we had in surplus to go to them. We fought against that. While I agree with the fact that there are some unforeseen circumstances that we may face, let's not be naïve. When the audit report came out that said that we should have a restricted account for Special Education and we presented that with the City, they gave us that restricted account for one year. In the second year, the Mayor took what was supposed to be a restricted account and reduced it by \$450,000. I don't know why you think, sitting here tonight, the Mayor wouldn't see that we have a surplus of \$130,000 and use that against us as he has in the past. I

can not support your idea.

I believe paying back the City what we owe is the right thing to do. We know that the Mayor stood before us several years ago and told us to get rid of the “nice to haves”; get rid of the luxuries, which is what we did; we know that we have a legal consent order that says that we cannot restore any programs until the debt is paid in full and that is what we plan to do. We have all committed to it, you included. I say we get the job done; we pay the deficit and we stay on course as the Superintendent has hoped that we would and we pay back what’s owed so we can get back to business of education.

Mrs. Ruggieri

Mr. Bloom, I know that you were away and missed the Work Session that we had last week and I don’t know if you had the opportunity to look at some of the information that Mr. Balducci presented to us; however, he presented to us a budget that adjusted for those unforeseen and the lucky items that we came out with ahead this year in preparation for the upcoming months. There is a long term look at where we are as far as the unforeseen and the things that are out of our control. I would suggest, and I don’t know if you have or not so I’m not going to assume that you have or have not looked at these items, but that was what was presented to us and that was part of the reason why we were comfortable to say that this \$130,000 could go towards paying down our obligation to the City which we all recognize we would like to get done sooner rather than later as long as it’s not a detriment to our current situation. That is what we felt

looking at all the numbers.

Mr. Lombardi

I've been here since 2006 and in 2006 when I first came on the School Committee, I was asked to cut things like the Gifted Program, Strings, Middle School Sports and moving the 6th grade back to the elementary school. At that time, I refused to do so and then we had this thing called "Caruolo" and I was told that we had to do these things and in fact, when I was here, Mrs. Culhane and Mrs. Ruggieri were all here booing me for moving the 6th grade back to the elementary school. That saved \$1.4 million. Since that time, we've negotiated with our Transportation Group, we privatized our Food Service, and we're realizing revenue now rather than bleeding losses every year. I was here along with my colleagues until about 2:30 in the morning negotiating with our Teachers' Union. They stepped up to the plate and they realized \$5 million in savings for us. When I get to see things like \$5 million, 1.6 million, 500,000, 240,000 and all of those savings; I think it's pretty smart of what we did. I don't think it was lucky; I think it was smart. Now...did we have a lucky year? Yes, absolutely, but we are doing things and a bi-partisan group of the City Council applauded us for what we've done. You've got Republicans and Democrats all alike, saying that we have done our job on the School Committee. I want to pay back the City as quickly as we possibly can. If we're lucky again next year I hope the remaining members of this committee see fit and take that lucky money and bring it and give it back to the City as quickly as possible so that we

can restore programs quicker and sooner rather than later. But to suggest that we did this because we weren't smart but lucky, I think mis-characterizes things, because I think we were smart in the negotiations that we had to do and then the fourth cuts that we had to make; not the cuts that we wanted to make.

Dr. Lundsten

Steve, with all due respect, before Joe went out of town, he sat with me on a regular basis to review the budget, the expenses, and what he forecasts for the future. I am comfortable with this. I stood before this audience of many of these people who were here the night of the interview, and clearly stated that we would not put anything back in and that we will follow the consent order and pay this loan back as quickly as we can so we can move forward. Anything we can do to make that happen so we can start putting programming back as well as be creative with our programming, I fully support. I think this is a good move. Joe reviewed with me, for example, the issue around the aging buses. We are going to run issues with that because our buses are getting older; they're inspected regularly; we make the corrections that need to be made to keep the buses safe. We will continue to do that but he told me that he was comfortable with this before he presented this and as Mrs. Ruggieri suggested, this was reviewed at the Work Session.

At this time, Mr. Lombardi assumed the Chair.

Ms. Iannazzi

Just to echo some of the things that my colleagues have said. First it is really important to note that the deficit was incurred because of a lack of a Fair Funding Formula at the State level. The Fair Funding Formula alone is bringing in \$24 million in new revenue to the City of Cranston over a seven year period. Without that Fair Funding Formula, we would be seeing tough times. Because of the enactment of the Fair Funding Formula, we can project out to the future and we can project paying off the deficit, once again. That was incurred because of lack of State Funding. Mr. Bloom, I understand that you are a very conservative budgeter and that you take that responsibility seriously, but I do as well. What was stated at last week's work session, which you missed because of travel, was that this current fiscal year's budget was based on a projected increase in health care and utility accounts. Mr. Balducci feels very comfortable giving this \$130,000 back to the City for those reasons but also for two other reasons. The first reason is the custodians' concessions were not included in last fiscal years' budget. That's where we made up that \$1.1 million. It was in the Debt Restructuring account. We made up \$900,000 of that \$1.1 million. Also, because we are currently negotiating a contract with the secretary's union, we feel very comfortable moving forward. Also, it's important to know that we had substantially more retirements than budgeted for the current fiscal year that we're in and there's going to be a high turn over allowance because of all of those retirees. Based on all of those reasons, and additional reasons that were spoken about by Mr. Balducci at last

week's meeting, I feel very comfortable voting on this resolution.

Mr. Bloom

With all due respect, my comments are not directed towards the expenses that Mr. Balducci has been forecasting. I think the District over the last year and one half has been doing a much better job of forecasting and budgeting. My comments are not directed to that; my comments are directed towards the variability and the unpredictability in our budget which can have a significant impact on where we end up at the end of the year. Dr. Lundsten is correct; the budget this year includes a 3% increase in health insurance. We have a \$16 million health insurance budget and we have a \$2.5 million variance in that. That's 15% favorable in one year. We could just as easily have a 15% unfavorable variance the next year. That's what my comment is directed to. We have certain expense accounts that are unpredictable. We could have a lousy winter. We could have a tremendous amount of snow removal expenses; we could have very bad claims history; than we've had those years. What that means is that in any given year, even if we are perfect and we do a great job and our bargaining groups come to the table and we do a very good job of managing our budget, there are going to be expenses that we can't predict. If anybody can, they can come and sit up here or they're god because these are not things that we can anticipate. That's what happened to us this year. This year, the District, and I'm not trying to belittle the efforts of this School Committee, this School Committee has made a lot of difficult decisions and implemented

many difficult cuts and the Superintendent did a tremendous job of managing the costs. But, there are certain things that we can't predict and this year is a perfect example of how those can impact the budget. As I said earlier, sometimes it's better to be luckier than smart. That's why this is money that I think we should be setting aside restricted as the insurance policy so that if these accounts go over-budget there's money there. We're not going back to the City Council; we're not in default of a loan agreement to repay a loan and that we have something to protect ourselves against variability for things we can't control.

There being no other discussion, the role was taken:

Mrs. Ruggieri Yes Mr. Lombardi Yes

Mr. Bloom No Mrs. Culhane Yes

Ms. Iannazzi Yes

The following resolution was passed.

SPONSORED BY MS. IANNAZZI, MRS. RUGGIERI AND MR. LOMBARDI

NO. 12-8-01 - WHEREAS, Cranston Public Schools ended the 2012 fiscal year with a surplus of \$131,467;

WHEREAS, the Cranston School Committee is desirous of transferring this money to the City of Cranston to continue to erase a deficit caused by a lack of State Aid prior to implementation of the

Fair Funding Formula;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cranston School Committee hereby authorizes that the fiscal year 2012 surplus of \$131,467 be transferred to the City of Cranston for an additional debt repayment.

A motion was made by Mrs. Culhane, and seconded by Mrs. Ruggieri for discussion on the following Resolution No. 12-8-02:

Ms. Iannazzi

Just a point of clarification on this resolution, Mr. Bloom requested that we make this announcement that we are not hiring out attorneys to complete this investigation. Attorney Andrew Henneous and MaryAnn Carroll represent the District and will be completing this. They are attorneys with Brennan, Recupero, Cascione, Scungio & McAllister, LLP. There being no further discussion, the roll was called:

Mr. Bloom Yes Mrs. Culhane Yes

Mr. Lombardi Yes Mrs. Ruggieri Yes

Ms. Iannazzi Yes

SPONSORED BY MS. IANNAZZI, MRS. CULHANE AND MRS. RUGGIERI

NO. 12-8-02 – Whereas, the Cranston School Department wishes to provide the highest quality education for all students, and

Whereas, the Cranston School Department wishes to continue to comply with the Audit Report from January, 2010, and

Whereas, the Audit Report recommended that the department realize the 12 goals that were set forth to meet the IDEA and State of RI Special Ed requirements in 2009, and

Whereas, the Audit also recommended that the department realizes a reduction of 10% in spending within a 5 year span (from the January 2010 date), and

Whereas, the School Committee desires that the students and parents of the Special Education community receive the highest quality education and experience in a consistent manner.

Be it Resolved, that a sub-committee of the Cranston School Committee be formed. This sub-committee will meet with Attorney Andrew Henneous and Mary Ann Carroll to develop a list of questions and / or concerns that they would like addressed. The sub-committee will then direct Attorneys Henneous and Carroll to conduct a review

and investigation of said issues.

Be it further Resolved, that initial findings shall be reported to the School Committee by the December work session.

A Motion was made by Mr. Lombardi and seconded by Mr. Bloom on the following Resolution No. 12-8-05 for discussion:

Mrs. Culhane

I would like to thank all the parents and faculty from Stadium that came out today. I'd also like to thank everybody that has taken the time to come to Friday's meeting to meet Mrs. Sacco. Those of you that expressed that you wanted to but couldn't we understood that it was a little bit of a last minute effort but we were trying to make right by the school and I really appreciate everybody that reached out to me. I just want to make one thing abundantly clear and there's been some question about people saying that maybe in some situations when we're looking to hire principals or fill jobs, we're making a rush to judgment and this particular case, we have a principal's position that we are leaving unfilled for that very reason that we really haven't found the right fit for that school. We want to make sure that we find a right fit for the school and the Superintendent, at this point, feels that this position is the right fit and I'm hoping that it will be as well. As a new representative to the community, I look forward to getting to

know you and talking with you and learning about what your community is all about. I hope you'll share that with me and if there are any other further questions or concerns, know that I have put myself out there on many occasions to make myself available to you and I will continue to do that.

Mr. Lombardi

I had the opportunity to meet this candidate in Executive Session. Aside from this being the recommendation of Dr. Lundsten, with respect of all of her first four appointments, there's a new sheriff in town. Mr. Nero is no longer here but one of the things that you are fulfilling is that you are surrounding yourself once again with the best and the brightest among your principals and administrators. And in this particular instance, I think it's a nice match because from what I understand; from what I learned, this young lady comes from a school of over 650 kids but she's a Cranstonian. She taught in Cranston; she's coming back to her home base and she lives in Cranston. I teased her about her enthusiasm because she answered a question that went on for about 15 minutes. I think that this is going to be a perfect fit and along with the other three appointments that we saw tonight, I applaud Superintendent Lundsten for a job well done again.

The roll was called:

Mrs. Culhane Yes Mrs. Ruggieri Yes

Mr. Lombardi Yes Mr. Bloom Yes

Ms. Iannazzi Yes

NO. 12-8-05 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, said certified administrator be appointed as follows:

Cheri Sacco, Principal

Stadium Elementary School

Contract Effective Date...August 21, 2012

See Attached Financial Impact Analysis

At this time, Dr. Lundsten welcomed Cheri Sacco to the Cranston Public Schools. She noted that she was told to hit the road running; you too.

A motion was made by Mr. Bloom and seconded by Mrs. Culhane to call Resolution No. 12-8-20 to the table for discussion:

Mrs. Ruggieri

I just wanted to start out by saying that this policy was written for several reasons. One of them was we thought it might be an opportunity for us at some point, if the Legislature passes this, that we would be able to have the revenue source that currently is unavailable to us. However, Cranston has a very strong Wellness Policy and a very strong philosophy of healthy life styles and healthy choices for our kids. In that vain, we decided that the best course would be to go through our Wellness Committee and write a policy

that we had some control over what types of advertisers and what types of advertising would be acceptable to push forth our vision of wellness and healthy living. The States that do have School Bus Advertising Policies don't have a lot of perimeters around them; there's not a lot of guidelines so pretty much anyone can advertise. We just felt as a District that values wellness, we wanted if this ever came to pass, control as far as what our District was going to represent. That is where this came from.

Mr. Lombardi

It's amazing; this was discussed in 2007 by then School Committee person Archetto who's looking into it and I think that this is precisely the kind of approach we have to have as a School Committee. We have to begin thinking outside the box and trying to obtain a different sort of revenue streams for our budget and for our overall well being and I think it's a great idea.

There being no further discussion, the roll was taken:

Mr. Lombardi Yes Mr. Bloom Yes

Mrs. Culhane Yes Mrs. Ruggieri Yes

Ms. Iannazzi Yes

NO. 12-8-20 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the School Bus Advertising Policy (#1112.2), be approved for first reading (see policy attached).

A motion was made by Mr. Lombardi and seconded by Mrs. Ruggieri to remove Resolution No. 12-7-21 from the table.

Mr. Bloom Yes Mr. Lombardi Yes Mrs. Culhane Yes

Mrs. Ruggieri Yes Ms. Iannazzi Yes

At this time, Mr. Lombardi made the motion to approve a settlement agreement with Administrator “A”. Mrs. Ruggieri seconded this motion. There being no discussion, the roll was taken:

Mrs. Culhane Yes Mr. Lombardi Yes Mrs. Ruggieri Yes

Mr. Bloom Yes Ms. Iannazzi Yes

TABLED RESOLUTION

NO. 12-7-21 - Be it Resolved that the School Committee approve or reject a settlement agreement with Administrator A.

New Business – There was none

Public Hearing on Non-Agenda Items –

Ms. Iannazzi announced that due to the Open Meetings Act and modifications made to it, any non-agenda item, the School Committee cannot comment back on. She indicated to Ms. Arena that her topic of conversation will be added to a future agenda to allow the School

Committee to respond.

Mrs. Arena

I just wanted to see if the School Committee would entertain looking more into a Green Initiative. It's a Bamboo Initiative which has the three "E's" – Education, Environment, and Economy. I presented some of the information which you received through e-mail and you can look at it and hopefully meet on it and see if it would meet the schools' needs. Thank you.

Announcement of Future Meetings – September 12 and September 24, 2012

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before this committee, a motion was made by Mr. Lombardi and seconded by Mrs. Ruggieri to adjourn. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank S. Lombardi

School Committee Clerk

School Bus Advertising Policy POLICY #1112.2

Cranston School District will hire a company to operate and maintain the marketing/advertising program for school buses. This company shall be chosen through a request for proposal process (RFP). Fees will be paid out of advertising profit under contract.

Approval of Advertisements

Final approval of advertisers and advertisements must be made by a majority vote of the School Committee. Advertisements must meet restrictions and guidelines as set forth below in order to be eligible for approval.

Advertising Restrictions/Guidelines:

The following restrictions for advertising will include but not be limited to the following in place for all advertisements placed on school buses:

The advertising will not:

- Promote violence, hostility or disorder**
- Promote any religious or political organization**
- Promote, favor or oppose any candidacy, bond issue, budget issue, or public questions submitted for any election**
- Be obscene or pornographic as defined by local standards**

- **Promote the use of tobacco, alcohol, narcotic drugs**
- **Interfere with the safety and recognition of a school bus**
- **Be slanderous**

Privatization of Transportation Fleet and Services

- **If Cranston Public Schools decides to retain the services of a private busing company for transporting our students we would require that the company adhere to all aspects of the School Bus Advertising Policy as adopted. This policy would be included in any and all RFP's that are part of the process of privatization.**
- **If Cranston Public Schools allows the private busing company to place advertising on the buses the School District and the private company will split the profit from advertising equally.**

Advertiser Responsibilities

The advertiser will be responsible to pay the district and its' contractors for all costs related to advertising on the school buses, including but not limited to:

- **Storing advertising**
- **Retrofitting buses**
- **Attaching advertisements**
- **Related maintenance**
- **Monthly advertising placement fees**

- **Removal of advertising**

Exterior bus advertising placement

- **Advertisements placed on exterior of buses will not exceed the requirements set by the General Assembly legislation guidelines**
- **Only one advertisement per exterior side of bus (total of 2 per bus—1 on each side)**
- **May not extend from the body of the bus**
- **Must be at least three inches from any required lettering, lighting, wheel well , reflector or other safety features**
- **Shall not interfere with the operation of any doors or windows**
- **Shall not be placed on emergency exits**

Interior bus advertising placement

- **Advertisements placed on the interior of buses will not exceed a maximum length of 24 inches or a maximum width of 10 inches per sign**
- **Maximum 6 advertisements per bus interior**
- **Must be at least three inches from any required lettering, lighting, wheel well, reflector or other safety features**
- **Shall not interfere with the operation of any doors or windows**
- **Shall not be placed on emergency exits**

School Bus Advertising Fund

Revenue raised from advertising contracts shall be remitted directly

to the school district and held in subaccounts for the following purposes:

70 % towards replacement of existing school bus fleet

20% towards programs determined by the school district

10% towards capital expenditures for school improvements

Rates and Fees for Advertising

Rates and fees will be set by marketing firm subject to School Committee approval.

Rates will be discounted for Cranston-based businesses subject to School Committee approval.

A minimum per bus and per month fee schedule will be set subject to School Committee approval.

August 1, 2012 (Update)

Policy Adopted: CRANSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Resolution No.: CRANSTON, RHODE ISLAND

**CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND WORK SESSIONS
SCHEDULE
2012-2013**

DATE TIME LOCATION

Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2012 5:00 pm (special time) Briggs Building

Monday, Sept. 24, 2012 7:00 pm* Western Hills

Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2012 6:00 pm Briggs Building

Monday, Oct. 15, 2012 7:00 pm* Western Hills

Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2012 6:00 pm Briggs Building

Monday, Nov. 19, 2012 7:00 pm* Western Hills

Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2012 6:00 pm Briggs Building

Monday, Dec. 10, 2012 7:00 pm* Western Hills

2013

Monday, Jan. 7, 2013 5:30 pm* Briggs Building
(Organizational Meeting)

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2013 7:00 pm Western Hills
(Public Budget Work Session)

Monday, Jan. 28, 2013 7:00 pm Western Hills
(Public Budget Work Session)

Thursday, Jan. 31, 2013 (if necessary) 7:00 pm Western Hills
(Public Budget Work Session)

Monday, Feb. 11, 2013 7:00 pm Western Hills
(Budget Adoption)

Thursday, Feb. 14, 2013 7:00 pm Western Hills
(Budget Adoption II)

Wednesday, March 13, 2013 6:00 pm Briggs Building

Monday, March 18, 2013 7:00 pm* Western Hills

Wednesday, April 10, 2013 6:00 pm Briggs Building

Monday, April 22, 2013 7:00 pm* Western Hills

Wednesday, May 15, 2013 6:00 pm Briggs Building

Monday, May 20, 2013 7:00 pm* Western Hills

Wednesday, June 12, 2013 6:00 pm Briggs Building

Monday, June 17, 2013 7:00 pm* Hope Highlands

Monday, June 24, 2013 7:00 pm* Hope Highlands

Thursday, June 27, 2013 7:00 pm* Hope Highlands

Wednesday, July 10, 2013 6:00 pm Briggs Building

Monday, July 15, 2013 7:00 pm* Hope Highlands

Wednesday, August 14, 2013 6:00 pm Briggs Building

Monday, August 19, 2013 7:00 pm* Hope Highlands

Wednesday meeting dates denote School Committee Work Sessions and Monday meeting dates denote regular School Committee meetings. The schedule has also been adjusted, where it could be, to not conflict with City Council meetings.

*** = or immediately following Executive Session.**

Gm July 16, 2012 Resolution No. 12-7-18 // Revised August 20, 2012 Resolution No. 12-8-21

Administrator's Compensation Schedule

Fiscal Year 2012-2013

NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL	ANN	SALARY
HEALTH	DENTAL	LIFE	PENSION	SURV
BEN	OASDI	MEDICARE	TOTAL	Fringe Sal & Fringe

Varrecchione, Vincent Dir.	PE/Athletics Briggs	90,000.00
16810 1105 33	12,609 96 0 1305	31,958 121,958
Buonanno, Susan Principal Gladstone	90,000.00	16810 1105 33
12,609 96 0 1305	31,958	121,958
Sacco, Cheri Principal Stadium	90,000.00	16810 1105 33
96 0 1305	31,958	121,958
Auth, Gerald Director CACTC	87,375.00	16810 1105 33
96 0 1267	31,552	118,927

Administrator's Compensation Schedule

Fiscal Year 2013-2014

NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL	ANN	SALARY
HEALTH DENTAL LIFE PENSION SURV				
BEN OASDI MEDICARE TOTAL Fringe Sal & Fringe				

Varrecchione, Vincent Dir.	PE/Athletics Briggs	90,000.00
18491 1182 33	13,437 96 0 1305	34,544 124,544
Buonanno, Susan Principal Gladstone	90,000.00	18491 1182 33
13,437 96 0 1305	34,544	124,544
Sacco, Cheri Principal Stadium	90,000.00	18491 1182 33
96 0 1305	34,544	124,544
Auth, Gerald Director CACTC	87,375.00	18491 1182 33
96 0 1267	34,114	121,489

Administrator's Compensation Schedule

Fiscal Year 2014-2015

NAME POSITION SCHOOL ANN

SALARY HEALTH DENTAL LIFE PENSION SURV

BEN OASDI MEDICARE TOTAL Fringe Sal & Fringe

Varrecchione, Vincent Dir. PE/Athletics Briggs	90,000.00
20340 1300 33 14,202 96 0 1305 37,276.00 127,276	
Buonanno, Susan Principal Gladstone	90,000.00 20340 1300 33
14,202 96 0 1305 37,276.00 127,276	